

Agriculture is a primary source of income in Tarboro-Edgecombe County. Although agriculture itself is not a town-building function, there is a strong reciprocal relationship between the town and its agricultural hinterland.

#### Trade

In the Tarboro Retail Trade Area there are 15,132 individuals with a total effective buying income of over \$23,500,000. This represents an effective buying income of \$1,553 per capita or \$6,522 per household.

It is probable that retail trade establishments in the area outside the Town are proliferating; while those in the settled urban area of the Town have, due to increased competition, consolidated and therefore slightly decreased in number. The number of retail workers employed has decreased due to modernization and the trend toward "superstore" type self-service establishments.

Although wholesale operations in Tarboro are increasing, Tarboro did not over the period of 1954 to 1958 maintain its share of the County's wholesale trade.

#### Worker Mobility

Of the 17,439 workers who reside in Edgecombe County, some 13,701 are employed in the County. In addition, approximately 2,048 workers commute to employment in Edgecombe County from other areas.

Each year, according to the most recent estimates of the Employment Security Commission, six hundred and fifty high school students enter the labor market within an area having a radius of twenty-five road miles of Tarboro. Considering this addition to the work force, there are currently available and unemployed approximately 3,310 workers in the Tarboro area.

Of the available workers, 210 are skilled, 670 semi-skilled, and 2,430 trainable for production jobs demanding skill development. Of the skilled and semi-skilled workers, 275 are experienced in the textile industry.

#### Prospect

From the investigation of the population and economic data, it is apparent that Tarboro will not experience tremendous growth in the foreseeable future. On the contrary, based upon past trends it is projected that the Tarboro area will suffer a loss in population. However, in light of recent successful efforts toward increased industrialization in the Tarboro area and the expressed desire of the citizens of Tarboro to create a better, more attractive place in which to live, work, and play, it is also apparent that Tarboro does not intend to stand still.